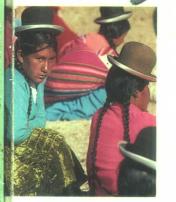
GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS

Ina Changing World













GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS

In a Changing World

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

To my Aunt,

HELENA M. GAMER,

A pioneer in medieval studies who helped keep the University of Chicago a haven of research-driven learning.

"It's reSEARCH, not REsearch," she told me many times. "When students and teachers combine their energies and insights, they can find new treasures in old chests. Neither can do it alone."

PREFACE

Welcome to the study of comparative politics. Regardless of your prior coursework, this field is not entirely new to you, because much of it concerns how you and others think and act.

You probably exert some influence at home, and perhaps at school and elsewhere. If you vote, belong to a group, express opinions about government or policies, or attend meetings, you may have deliberately or accidentally influenced government leaders. You have views and attitudes, perhaps even some strong ones, about politics in this and other countries; so you have probably done some thinking about the topics we will be discussing here. But unless you have taken another course on the subject. you probably have not thought very methodically about why politics is an essential part of life. Why do people behave as they do when they engage in politics? What factors cause politics to operate differently in different countries? Why are some people more successful than others at getting what they want? And you may not have thought much about why you think and act as you do with regard to politics, and how your political behavior (or lack of it) might affect your life for ill or good.

The fact that you come into the course with opinions about the subject can be both an advantage and a drawback. Opinions may induce curiosity, or make us rigid about how we approach information. If you allow your opinions to arouse your curiosity, this course will help you examine the validity of your own opinions and see how politics may affect your life.

Throughout this book, we shall be discussing nine political systems. Two of these systems underwent dramatic changes in the late 1980s and early 1990s. One, Germany, became a single nation-state in 1871, but was separated into East and West from the end of World War II until 1990; therefore, when appropriate, we shall discuss it as two separate nation-states which recently reunified. The other system,

Russia, has been a single political unit for many centuries, gradually conquering other peoples. In 1921, it was organized into fifteen separate republics as the Soviet Union; in 1991, those fifteen republics all declared themselves independent and the USSR dissolved. However, the republics remain bound by strong economic ties and share remnants of a formerly unified military. Some of them created a loose organization called the Commonwealth of Independent States in an effort to sort these ties out.

As we summarize discussions at the end of chapters, you will see these nine systems grouped like this:

United States (USA)
West Germany (FRG)
United Kingdom (UK)
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
East Germany (GDR)
China (PRC)
India (RI)
Peru (RP)
Nigeria (FRN)

Those in the first group are commonly called industrialized democracies, and those in the third, developing nations. Those in the center group are (or have been until recently) communist systems. The book notes many common characteristics within these groupings, but does not generally label them in this manner.

Systems in one group share characteristics with systems in the others. Yet each is to some extent unique in its history and culture, with attributes not shared by the others. Many citizens and a variety of leaders in all these systems exert influence, and affect the ways rewards and punishments are distributed; many other citizens do not. The pattern of who exerts influence, and who does not, varies from system to system.

Some of these systems distribute material rewards more equally, and allow more freedoms, among their citizens than others. All are undergoing changes which could make those distributions different in the future. Who receives what rewards and freedoms depends on powerful, impersonal forces, and subtle interactions among political, military, social, technological, and economic institutions. But it also depends, in a very personal way, on the attitudes of people, and the influence they are capable of exerting—on how you and I and others think and act.

For example, Americans are becoming aware that it is vitally important to maintain our manufacturing base if our standard of living is to remain high. Yet, the factors that affect our manufacturing base are complex and uncertain. Consider this: The former Soviet Union became a military superpower, rivalling the United States in its output of weapons and giving most of its populace education and access to media. The USSR and another communist system, China, surpass India in distributing goods among their own people.

Yet China and India are more successful than the former Soviet Union at manufacturing goods which sell on world markets. They have access to the sea, long traditions of buying and selling, fertile agriculture, and other traits that help create that success. The former Soviet Union (like China) has a road system far more primitive than India's, and, unlike China and India, its people have little experience manufacturing, buying, and selling on free markets. Now that the Soviet superpower has collapsed, can the nation-states formed from it compete with China and India, not to mention Western Europe and the United States? Will the post-Soviet republics develop modern economies, or will they prefer to isolate themselves from the political and economic freedoms offered by the outside world?

The answers to these questions depend on how their attitudes evolve, and how they use their growing influence. If the CIS nation-states return to isolation, the Cold War could resume, bringing with it the high cost of massive arms production and maintenance of bases and troops around the world. Meanwhile, China may increasingly take jobs from

American workers as its production capacities increase, while remaining a communist state. Personal attitudes and attributes, as well as broad, impersonal forces, interact to determine the economic and political futures of all these systems.

Consider also the movement toward democratization around the globe. In Latin America, Peru (which has known many decades of military rule) took the lead in attempting to establish democratic government. Yet Peru exports 60 percent of the world's cocaine, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has discovered that its political system blocks all efforts to control this trade. The military government of Nigeria, Africa's largest and most populous country, has led the way in attempting to establish democratic government there. The system they are trying to create is slow in coming; its success or failure will have a strong impact on the success of democracy elsewhere in Africa and the Middle East. That, in turn, can affect the political stability of this region, where the United States has maintained a long military presence. Once again, the attitudes of people in those countries, and the influence they learn to exert, will determine whether the democratic institutions created there can work. Our attitudes toward their democratization (or our lack of knowledge about it) will also play a role; it is generally easier and more effective to use subtle aid and pressure while positive events are taking place than to send troops in after crises emerge.

We know something about our own country and some of the countries of Europe. Often, the rest of the world remains a bit of a void. This book will introduce you better to our own country, as well as to several countries in various parts of the world. And it will let you see how the lives of others around the globe relate to ours.

The book proceeds in a logical progression. Part 1 quickly introduces basic concepts and themes of the course. Part 2 examines why people think and act as they do in politics. Part 3 looks at how people think and act; it suggests that when more people are involved in politics, view their leaders and national policies as legitimate, trust one another, and feel effective and willing to compromise, the result may be greater equality, freedom, protection for the

environment, and public order. Part 4 examines whether this premise proves true in the real world. And part 5 looks at how technology, economics, and social forces effect political change.

You can follow one country through the book by using the index and the chart at the end of this preface, which indicates where longer discussions about each country appear. Because an understanding of the future requires understanding of the past, these longer discussions will familiarize you with some of the history of these lands.

After you learn some basic vocabulary in chapter 1, and gain an understanding of how political systems are organized in chapters 2-4, chapter 5 introduces the main themes of the book. The book is divided into 33 separate chapters, rather than a few long ones, so that you can think through each of these themes one step at a time. Each chapter opens and closes with a summary of the chapter. In addition, the beginning of each chapter features a phrase or question in boldface to highlight the chapter's central theme. Make a habit of thinking about these highlighted themes before you read a chapter, and perhaps reviewing both the introduction and the end-of-chapter summary before you delve into the chapter itself.

At the end of each chapter are Exercises designed to help you understand the chapter. The section that instructs you to "think about the book thus far" at the beginning of the exercises asks you to take a couple of minutes to relate the chapter you have just read to those that came before it. Your ability to do this is a good measure of whether you are grasping the themes of each chapter and putting them in context. Answering the questions and defining the words and phrases will also help you focus on the main ideas and alert you to important terms that will appear throughout the text. Notice that these terms are highlighted in boldface in each chapter. They appear in the exercise in the same order they appear in the chapter, and they are also listed in the index.

In the Thinking it Through exercise at the end of each section of exercises, you will have a chance to integrate the chapter concepts and relate them to the main question discussed in the chapter. By filling in the charts and answering the questions in this section, you will single out the significant elements in the narrative and better understand how the book ties together.

If the summary at the end of the chapter is not completely clear to you, work on the exercises. If it remains unclear, ask your instructor about the parts you do not understand. If you understand the summaries, you understand the book; if not, you are not grasping the main themes.

This book talks about places, events, and people—past and present—that you may or may not be familiar with. It usually defines and discusses them briefly. But if you want to know a bit more about the Protestant Revolution or the Renaissance; or if you find differences between communist and capitalist marketing systems confusing, or are confronted with information that is not familiar and not adequately explained, ask about it. Learning begins with asking questions, and it blossoms when you think these questions through. The exercises and your instructor will give you questions to stimulate your thoughts; ask your own as well, focusing on what you know, do not know, and are interested in.

The footnotes, gathered at the end of each chapter, contain a lot of human interest stories, statistics, recommended reading, and explanations of points that may not be clear.

As a science, political science is concerned with how and why things happen. That requires analysis a somewhat imposing word that simply means you must think through how separate parts relate to a whole. Especially in the beginning, you will need to memorize some words, details about how authority is distributed and elections are held, and the like. But starting in chapter 2, the text emphasizes comparison. As you approach a chart, table, or paragraph discussing more than one country, ask yourself: "Which has more, and which has less? How does this compare with what we discussed in the last chapter?" Finding the patterns in the answers to these questions can move you beyond memorization to analysis. You will also find that what you are learning here will profoundly impact the way you live your life.

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Our hosts abroad are so numerous I fear that an attempt to list people or institutions would lead to too many omissions; I have learned much from you, and have benefited from many a good deed. But Professor Bian and Yu Xunda, our hosts at Hangzhou University during the spring and summer of 1989 and again in 1993, have a special place in our hearts and must be mentioned. And, Harry and Hilda, this book is for Elsa, too.

More Detailed Discussions about Individual Systems ¹							ED X			
Chapter Topic		USA	USSR, CIS	FRG	GDR	UK	PRC	RI	RP	FRN
4	Access of candidates to media and money	*		*		*	And Administrative visual research or to the con-			*
9	Employment			*	*		*			
11 14	National identity and political efficacy		*							
15	Attitudes about equality	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
16	Attitudes about power and authority	*	*							
17	Beliefs about law	*	*	*	*	*		*		
19	Political party systems									*
20	Interest groups	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*
21	Consensual parties and change						*	*	*	*
23	Totalitarianism		*	*	*					
	Bureaucracy Military rule		*					*	*	*
25	Incomes							*	*	*
26	Opportunity for women and minorities	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
27	Freedoms	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
28	Protection for the environment	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
31	Innovation and change	*	*	*	*	*	*			
32	Innovation and change							*	*	*
33	Productivity						*			

¹See explanation of abbreviations, page 39.

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